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**FORMER SACRAMENTO POSTAL CARRIER SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS IN PRISON**  
**FOR STEALING AND USING DOZENS OF DEBIT CARDS**  
**SHE STOLE FROM THE MAIL**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that former U.S. Postal Service employee VIENGKEO "VICKY" PATHAMMAVONG, 34, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr., to 37 months in prison. PATHAMMAVONG also was ordered to pay over \$130,000 to various financial institutions who were victimized in the scheme. The defendant pleaded guilty before Judge Damrell to access device fraud and mail theft on May 8, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who prosecuted the case, PATHAMMAVONG, a former rural route carrier, stole more than 200 debit and/or credit cards (or "access devices") and the associated PINs (personal identification numbers) from customers on her delivery route in 2005. As part of her plea, PATHAMMAVONG admitted using more than 50 of those debit cards to make fraudulent withdrawals and purchases totaling more than \$100,000. In addition, PATHAMMAVONG had accumulated more than 400 pieces of stolen mail and over 100 gift cards purchased with the stolen debit cards.

"The lengthy sentence handed down was fully warranted by the defendant's serious breach of the public's trust," said United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott.

The order of restitution requires PATHAMMAVONG to pay \$139,163.44 to victims of the fraud scheme including Golden 1 Credit Union, Wells Fargo Bank, River City Bank, Sacramento Credit Union, Schools Financial Credit Union, Safe Credit Union, U.S. Bank, Washington Mutual Bank, and several others. None of the individual bank customers suffered financial loss.

Following the service of her sentence, PATHAMMAVONG will serve a 3-year term of supervised release during which she will be required to cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement in any deportation proceedings.

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